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A36475-PCT-USA (066340.0218)
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Amendments to the Drawings

A set of replacement drawings (FIGS. 1 and 2) is enclosed

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RemarksSummary of Office Action

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1, 4 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from applicant's admission of prior art ("AAPA") and Branstad, U.S. patent No. 6,519,716 ("Branstad"). Claims 2 and 3 have been similarly rejected as being obvious from AAPA and Branstad in view of Klein U.S. patent publication No. 2001/0052067.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(o) as lacking descriptive labels for the figure elements.

Applicants' Reply

With respect to the Drawings, applicants note that the elements in FIG. 1 and 2 are labeled by Reference numerals. An index of the reference numerals and the description of the figure elements is provided in the specification. (See e.g., Brief Description of the Drawings pages 8-9). Accordingly, Applicants submit that descriptive legends on the Figures themselves are necessary for complete or proper understanding of the Figures. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the under 37 CFR 1.84(o) objection. In the meanwhile, in order to advance prosecution applicants submit a set of (informal) replacement drawings as required by the Examiner.

Applicants have amended claim 1 for clarity, and respectfully traverse the prior art rejections of claims 1-10.

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Applicants' invention solves noted problems in the prior art methods related to startup and initialization of modern computer or processor configurations. The noted problems relate to proper identification of external devices and to the placement of external devices (external to the processor) in a suitable initial state for startup. (See e.g., Background of the Invention, ¶¶ [0003], [0007], [0008], [0012]-[0015], etc.).

Applicants' inventive method, according to claim 1, is directed to the initialization or startup of an ASIC processor based system in which information required for initializing registers and internal and/or external modules is stored in and read from external memory. The steps of the method include

after turn-on or other event triggering a fresh start,

(a) transferring initialization information for the processor system from an external or internal non-volatile storage medium to an internal memory coupled to a processor element, under the control of a program stored in an instruction memory portion coupled to the processor element, wherein the initialization information includes at least one initialization program and initialization data; and

(b) reading and transferring initialization data and further initializing the registers and modules under the control of the at least one initialization program transferred into the internal memory portion coupled to the processor element of the programmable system.

Applicants respectfully submit that the steps and combination of steps as recited are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited references.

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Branstad addresses the manner of controlling an operational access time for a non-volatile memory by "Dynamic Memory Testing" to minimize initialization time in an electronic device. (See e.g., col. 2 lines 32-52, etc.) However, applicants note that Branstad does not describe or teach any method or process for initialization. In fact, Branstad at col 5, lines 34-35 states that the "the precise program code utilized to implement this functionality [initialization program] is irrelevant." Branstad merely test suitable initialization conditions i.e., suitable access time for communicating with external memories. Applicants note that such derivation (or other derivation) of initialization data is presumed in AAPA.

Applicants emphasize that their invention, according to claim 1, is not an generic AAPA or Branstad statement that an initialization program is used for initialization or concerned with derivation of the optimal initialization data set. Claim 1 specifically requires the steps that an initialization program be transferred and stored in the instruction memory portion (e.g., ROM) of the processor element as part of the initialization/startup response. This transferred initialization program then controls the functionality of the processor during system startup including control of the reading of initialization information.

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing demonstrates that the elements of claim 1 are not shown, taught or suggested by AAPA and Branstad, viewed individually or in combination.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is not obvious and is patentable over the cited art.

Further, dependent claims 2-10 are patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is patentable as discussed above.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that no fee is due in addition to the three-month extension fee, however, applicant authorize, in the Fee Transmittal submitted herewith the Director to charge payment of any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

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